

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

## FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

September 2002

### OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

#### Commission Office

The following items were discussed at the September 12, 2002 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission:

- The FRC Chair reported on the following items:
  - A public forum on the DOL “two hatter” issue will be held on September 17
  - A briefing was provided regarding events and activities on September 11
  - An update was provided regarding the establishment of the Medical Review Committee
  - An update was provided regarding the upcoming Planning Convocation which will be held on September 28
  - Jim Resnick has been promoted to District Chief for Research and Planning
- Senator Amoss Fund reallocations were approved for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase RS, Hillandale VFD, and the Upper Montgomery County VFD
- Appointments for career and volunteer members to the FRC Standing Committees were approved.
- The *PSTA Registration* policy was adopted by the Commission.

#### *Research and Planning*

#### Emergency Management

**Shooting Spree** – The Emergency Operations Center was activated for the shooting events which started in Montgomery County, and continued in DC, PG, and VA. A hotline was established. Counselors were designated for all the schools. Logistics support included mobilization of drivers from DPW&T to survey their “snow plow” routes looking for the truck under investigation. Coordinated implementation of Code Blue and requests for increased security at the schools with school officials. Family Assistance was provided by the Shelter Task Force agency members. Information shared with other counties about donation fund and C. Executive’s call for parents to assist with school security during Code Blue.

**Sept 25<sup>th</sup> Terrorism/NPS Exercise** – The EMG conducted a full scale Bioterrorism Exercise on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The exercise included a simulated activation of the Center for Disease Control’s National Pharmaceutical Stockpile. The exercise was funded with \$20,000 in federal anti-terrorism training funds. The exercise simulated the spread of highly contagious smallpox introduced into the Metro system by terrorists. Four area hospitals used mock victims to overload their ERs and all five tested their disaster plans. The EOC was activated. An alternate site was selected to test the NPS Distribution and Security Plans. Contractors were hired for evaluation and exercise facilitation, and were supplemented by MCFRS officers. This was the first time that the Bioterrorism Task Force was activated for an exercise at the Dennis Avenue clinic. Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (APL) worked with Public Health and OEM as part of the exercise design to provide database simulations of the spread of the disease. The exercise had a dramatic time compression simulating events over six days, and this impacted the various teams’ ability to coordinate with appropriate communication links. Overall the

exercise was highly successful in testing our Emergency Operations Plan and coordination capabilities.

**Videotaping** – The MacLear-Neil News Hour crew filmed the NPS Exercise at the EOC and conducted interviews with key officials. The exercise was also videotaped and a training video will be developed for Bioterrorism response training.

**NPS Exercise Critique-** A “hotwash” was conducted the day of the exercise on September 25th. The formal NPS exercise critique will be hosted by Suburban Hospital on October 10th at the hospital. Federal funding covers the cost of the critique and the formal report that will be prepared by EGH Associates and Ivan Walks Associates.

**EOC Training** – OEM’s K. Henning and Ric Helfrich from PHS conducted EOC Activation and Emergency Operations Plan training on September 30<sup>th</sup> for the Health Dept’s Bioterrorism Task Force, and senior staff from Corrections, Recreation, and other HHS senior staff.

**Corrections** – K. Henning and B. Nemchin conducted a Disaster Response orientation training for senior DOC staff at the Clarksburg Detention Center facility under construction. Subjects included EOC activation, coordination with other agencies, and disaster response.

**Radiological Exercise**– Planning is under for a full scale Radiological Exercise for February 25, 2003. Meetings have been held with Police, Fire and Rescue, and Public Works. Technical experts are assisting in the design.

**Grants** – Meetings were held with OEM and state officials. Meeting held with members of Bioterrorism Task Force to resolve NPS Workshop bills. Staff have been working on year-end closures for a number of hazardous materials and terrorism grants from 2002. OEM staff have started work on the Byrne grant for the new EOC at 1300 Quince Orchard.

**EPA Conference** – Mike Krumlauf has been attending support staff organizational meetings to help Mont. Co as one of the hosts of the December EPA conference in Baltimore. Providing support staff and co-hosting the conference will make us eligible for registration slots and LEPC funding.

**Governor Staff** – K. Henning and five other Emergency Managers representing the Maryland Emergency Management Association met with James Terracciano on October 7th. Topics included request for higher visibility for Emergency Management, coordination between the Governor’s newly appointed Maryland Security Council and the GEMAC/SERC (Governor’s Emergency Management Advisory Council/State Emergency Response Commission.), and requests for improved communications with the county EMA offices.

**LEPC** – State officials advise that local LEPCs will be eligible for training funds. The funds come from the newly enacted state permits issued by MDE for facilities with certain reportable hazardous materials. To qualify for the funding, the local LEPC must be active and have written bylaws. Our LEPC is working to formalize our bylaws. The next quarterly meeting of the LEPC is October 17th.

**Citizen Corp Council** – OEM staff have been participating with the Volunteer Center, HHS, Red Cross, MCFRS LFRDs and other agencies on the Citizen Corp Council. State officials met with OEM and have confirmed that funding will be channeled from FEMA through MEMA to local jurisdictions. The CCC will approve local groups such as Neighborhood Watch, the MCFRS CHAMPS, and other programs for the funding.

## Community Education Safety Section

- Attended various Staff meetings.
- Replied, by phone or email, to 80 citizen, 40 FD, & 30 “other” (media, county gov’t) inquires (19 hours).
- Met with various department staff and members totaling 12 hours.
- Composed various Memos and Safety Tips for dissemination to all work locations.
- Scheduled various community education events and classes (10 hours).
- Dealt with various personnel and program issues relating to community safety.
- Various correspondences composed and disseminated. (6 hours)
- Continued with various Fire Evacuation Planning sessions for various High/Mid Rise Office/Residential, churches, and other 1-story buildings **NOW IMPACTING over 131,000 people encompassing 154 HOURS.**
- Reviewed bids, proposals, and rough drafts for various education literature and items. (1 hour)
- Meetings re CERT/CHAMP program developmental (3 hours).
- Operation Extinguish management. (2 hours)
- CPSS Tech’s participated in several Car Seat Checks.
- Home Fire Safety Evaluations conducted. (2 hours)
- BC-C Chamber Internet Seminar/Webinar (4 hours).
- Attended COG Pub. Ed. Group meeting (1 hour).
- Partnership w/ Mont. Co Libraries – Seminars held at 12 libraries impacting 45 people. (24 hours)
- Composed and submitted grant to FEMA for fire prevention & education. (15 hours).
- Met with Red Cross reps on partnership possibilities. (2 hours).
- Developed PowerPoint presentation for Sept. 28 Goal Setting Conference. (3 hours).
- Submitted Montgomery’s Best Award nomination. (1 hour)
- Assisted with NOAA Radio Press Conference. (2 hours)
- Assisted with coordination and ceremonies remembering 9-11. (12 hours)
- Friendship Heights Public Safety Committee Meeting (3 hours).
- Assisted with Leisure World “Thank You” event at FS25 (3 hours).
- Attended MCFRS Goal Setting Conference Sept. 28. (7 hours)

## *Corporate Development Services*

### *Automation Section*

## Fleet and Facilities Section

- The following apparatus is scheduled for delivery in October: two pumpers (Bethesda 6 and Chevy Chase 7), one tanker (Rockville 31), and two EMS units (Hillandale 12 and Rockville 23).
- Several new fleet vehicles are in the process of being outfitted and assigned to Code Enforcement, and ECC.
- Full-size SUVs are being ordered for Investigations and Operations.
- Silver Spring FS #1 replacement continues in the schematic design phase. This facility will house the fire station, a police sub-station, the County’s Silver Spring regional offices, and eventually a children’s safety program.
- The West Germantown fire/rescue station ‘program of requirements’ is nearing

completion and an architect will be hired in November.

- This section continues to support a number of ancillary PS2000 fleet and facility programs.

#### *Grants Management Section*

#### *Property Section*

### **DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

#### **Bureau of Operations**

##### *Administration*

##### *Safety*

##### *Specialty Teams*

##### *Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue*

#### **Swiftwater Rescue Team**

- During the month of September, the Swiftwater Rescue Team was dispatched on three incidents, two of which required the use of boats.
- Many personnel changes occurred with the consolidation of the specialty teams. The dive team vehicle is now at Station 30 and Airboat is now back in service.
- The Swiftwater Rescue Team is now preparing to cross-train personnel from the combined teams to enable personnel to qualify for both disciplines.
- Six of our team members received the Higgins & Langley Memorial award from NASAR at its summer conference.

#### **Bureau of Program Support Services**

##### *Administration*

##### **Communications**

###### September 2002

Total Telephone Calls Received:	32,291
Total 9-1-1 Calls Received:	9,748
Total Admin Calls Received:	21,990

- CAD/Altaris training courses continue for full and cross-trained personnel.
- The IPMA exam was administered to 34 students of RC22 – the first time a crecruit class was tested as a whole.
- Maureen Morello and Jim Grissom attended the VESTA/Meridian Phone System Administrators class held at 1300 Quince Orchard Blvd.
- Jim Grissom attended the MIEMSS EMD Consensus Group meeting held September 12

at the MIEMSS building in Baltimore.

- MFF Peter Hughes attended and successfully completed an APCO Basic Telecommunicator training program taught by Jim Grissom.
- Lt. Peppel, MFR Snyder, FF Slaubaugh, FF Roberts, FF Wallace and FF Badalian were given a drill on the escape masks by District Chief Stephan.
- Congratulations to the following for new additions to their families:
  - Mike and Amy Ruth welcomed Alex Michaelon on September 6.
  - Pete and Christine Corte welcomed Nicholas Angelo on September 11.
  - DJ and Christine Mandeville welcomed Sierra Marie on September 15.
- ECC personnel would like to thank District Chief Patullo for his service to the Communications Center for the last 2 ½ years as the Communications Officer, Operations Supervisor, Chairman of the COG Communications Committee, and most importantly as the manager of PS2000. Good luck in your new assignment at DIST4B.

### *Training*

## **Bureau of Life Safety Services**

### **Administration**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Decon/WMD Symposium is scheduled for October 24-25, 2002. There are 355 participants registered coming from New Zealand, Canada, Alaska, Vermont, Georgia, Mississippi and many others.

### **Fire Code Enforcement**

- The Code Enforcement now has an AED in its office.
- Four new personnel have been selected and will start their position soon.
- The Code Enforcement office space at 255 Hungerford Drive is being redesigned.
- All field inspectors now have laptops from the Department of Permitting Services to assist in the inspection and permitting process.
- Five fire investigators have now been certified through the National Fire Academy.
- The permitting fee structure is being revised.
- Training videos for new fire protection systems and building construction will be provided for all Code Enforcement personnel.
- The Code Enforcement has completed all public schools inspections. A team of four inspectors will be working with the schools. All private and public schools will now be inspected annually.
- A list of Code Enforcement Inspectors will be available on an as-needed basis for night and weekend inspections. They can be contacted through ECC.
- The Code Enforcement is orienting all building developers in the requirements for the fire services permitting and inspections.

### **Fire and Explosive Investigation**

In September, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 18 accidental fires and 16 criminal fire related incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 39 explosive / suspicious package/ letter, threat incidents. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$351,500 and \$79,105 for criminal fire related incidents.

The section took the necessary precautions and covered several events for the September 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The section has established an Arson and Explosive Tip Line within the office. This number is **240-777-2263** and is to be used to receive information on any criminal fire and explosive related cases. The section is also working on a similar tip system to be added to our web page.

## **DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

- Attended greeting and orientation of a new recruit class
- Participated in a “Dirty Bomb” workshop
- Attended a driver-operator certification policy meeting
- Participated in Family Night for the new recruit class
- Conducted a meeting regarding the pollution prevention manual for the MCFRS
- Participated in the 9-11 ceremonies (Sta. 31 and Court House Sq.) and responded to the EOC for a partial EMG activation
- Attended a Mont. Co. Cham. of Comm. Awards Committee meeting
- Conducted a LOSAP review meeting with the committee to define priorities for the Fire Administrator
- Attended a meeting with the Fire Administrator, Chief Strock and William Henry regarding an interoperable wireless system (CAPWIN)
- Met with the Fire Board Chairman and Senior Recruiter regarding the Fire Board grant
- Attended the DOL public forum
- Conducted another LOSAP review meeting
- Attended the luncheon for former Commissioner Marco
- Attended the County Executive’s Quarterly Leadership Forum at UMSG
- Invited to the Car Safety Seat Program ceremony at the Fitzgerald Auto Center
- Participated in a large unit citation at Sta. 8
- Conducted another LOSAP review meeting
- Participated with the EMG in a pharmaceutical/hospital bio terrorism

exercise and following critique

- Participated in the MCFRS Planning Convocation
- Attended the COG Metro Chiefs meeting at WAMATA Hdqts.
- Conducted the final meeting regarding the Pollution Prevention for the MCFRS for draft preparation for the Fire Administrator's review
- Attended the Fire Board, Human Resources, Safety and Training, Chiefs Advisory, Operations Committee, the Fire and Rescue Commission, and Fire and Rescue Association meetings
- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.